Graduate Class IV Employment in Railway Canteens in Parliament Complex

1007. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Graduate and 10+2 class IV employees are working in the Railway Canteens in Parliament complex since 1984, and even before that;

(b) whether such employees have not been promoted even after rendering service for nearly two decades;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of graduate and 10+2 waiters working in Railway canteens in Parliament Complex at a particular post for the last 15-16 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Promotion norms are based on seniority cum suitability and not on educational qualification alone. Thirty nine staff who have completed 12 years of regular service in Group 'D' in Parliament House Catering Complex have been given higher grade.

(d) Graduate-one
10+2- nil.

Phasing out of Subsidies on Rail Passenger Traffic

1008. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seriously implement the recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee on railway restructuring;

(b) whether that Committee has sought phasing out of subsidies on passenger traffic, to ensure a better freight passenger fare ratio;

(c) whether the cross subsidy from freight to passenger traffic

amounts almost to Rs. 5000 crores and this is cornered by non-poor urban passengers; and

(d) whether Government are aware that high freight tariff diverts business to other modes of transport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) The recommendations of the Committee are under examination by a Committee of Senior Railway officers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Barring a few commodities such as salt, fruits, vegetables etc., which are carried below the cost of operation by an amount of Rs. 245 crores, freight traffic in 2000-01 cross-subsidised the passenger traffic and other coaching services to the extent of Rs. 4875 crores, including Rs. 659 crores suburban services in metropolitan cities.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Jammu-Udhampur Rail Link Project

1009. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jammu-Udhampur rail link project, which was initiated 20 years back, still remains a dream;

(b) whether it is also a fact that during this long period three construction companies have come and gone and a sum of Rs. 1.42 crore remains to be realized from the defaulting contractors, who were awarded contract by throwing all rules to the wind;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and whether recovery of the outstanding dues has not been made so far, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when this project would be completed?

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